

PUBLISHED JULY 27, 2014 IN THE LARAMIE BOOMERANG

Legal Notice – Opportunity to Comment  
Muddy Creek and Lake Creek Watershed Restoration Project  
USDA Forest Service  
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
Laramie Ranger District  
Albany County, Wyoming

The Forest Service is seeking input on the Muddy Creek and Lake Creek Watershed Restoration Project. The Project is located in Albany County, WY, approximately 30 miles west of Laramie in the Snowy Range Mountains. The legal description is T 13–4 N, R 78–79 W, 6<sup>th</sup> principal meridian. The project area includes National Forest System Roads 553 (Muddy Creek Road) and 588 (Lake Creek Road), the stream and riparian habitats of Muddy Creek and Lake Creek, and adjacent wetland and upland areas. The Responsible Official for this project is Frank E. Romero, Laramie District Ranger.

The purpose of the project is to improve wetland, stream, and watershed conditions, and improve fish and wildlife habitat within the project area. The project is needed because streambank erosion, channel incision, damage to riparian vegetation, and altered hydrologic processes are widespread in the project area, and because increased, unmanaged off-highway vehicle use has caused extensive rutting, erosion, and soil loss, negatively impacting hydrologic and biological resources.

We have prepared a Notice of Proposed Action that documents the purpose and need for the project and a description of four alternatives that the Laramie Ranger District interdisciplinary team plans to analyze to provide the responsible official the information he needs to make a decision. It is available on the Forest web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mbr/landmanagement/projects>.

This legal notice begins a formal, 30-day public comment period, which will be the only opportunity to submit comments on the project. Your comments and feedback will help to develop and refine alternatives and strengthen the analysis.

Comments can be submitted by mail, fax, over the phone, in person, or by email. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during this public comment period are eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. The Predecisional Administrative Review Process outlining objection regulations was published in March 2013 and is documented at 36 CFR 218.

Comments, names, and contact information of those who comment will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, the District will not be able to send subsequent environmental documents to anonymous respondents.

Written comments should be submitted to the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Laramie Ranger District, Attn: Frank Romero, 2468 Jackson St, Laramie, WY 82070, or fax: 307-745-2398. Oral and hand-delivered comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays). Telephone comments can be submitted to the Responsible Official at 307-745-2300.

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Electronic comments must be submitted to [comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-laramie@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-laramie@fs.fed.us) in an email message, or in rich text (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), or Word (.docx) format.

For more information concerning the proposal, or to receive a hard copy of the Notice of Proposed Action, please contact Monique Nelson, Environmental Coordinator, at (307) 745-2310 or [moniquenelson@fs.fed.us](mailto:moniquenelson@fs.fed.us).